

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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-----024484 150145Z /65

P 150043Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJECT: AUTHORITY FOR TIA TO FLY NON-STOP
ACROSS PAKISTAN

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY TRANS INTER-NATIONAL AIRLINES (TIA) FOR ASSISTANCE. TIA WANTS PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION(DGCA) TO MAKE NON-STOP WEEKLY OVERFLIGHTS OF PAKISTAN WITH EMPTY AIRCRAFT (I.E.-FERRY FLIGHTS). TIA HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR PRIVATE EFFORTS TO GAIN FROM THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT (GOP) AUTHORITY TO TRANSIT PAKISTAN WITHOUT FIRST HAVING TO LAND.

2.TIA IS A US SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINE CERTIFICATED TO CONDUCT WORLD-WIDE PASSENGER AND CARGO FLIGHTS. THEY WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW A ONE YEAR SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY
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ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHTS UTILIZING DC-8-63 AIRCRAFT. THE WEEKLY ITINERARY, CHICAGO-TEHRAN-HONG KONG-REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, WILL NECESSITATE AN OVERFLIGHT OF PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, SINCE THE TEHRAN-HONG KONG SEGMENT IS TO REPOSITION THE AIRCRAFT TO ONLOAD CARGO IN HONG KONG, THE FLIGHT OVER PAKISTAN WILL BE A FERRY FLIGHT.

3. TIA HAS OBSERVED, AS HAVE MANY OTHER OPERATORS OF US REGISTERED AIRCRAFT, THAT PAKISTAN'S OVERFLIGHT PROHIBITION WILL IMPOSE UN DUE RESTRICTIONS, TIME DELAYS AND EXPENSE ON THEIR OPERATION. THE ADDITIONAL COST OF FUEL ALONE FOR THESE FERRY FLIGHTS TO MAKE AN OPERATIONALLY UNNECESSARY LANDING IN PAKISTAN IS ESTIMATED BY TIA TO EXCEED 200,000 DOLLARS. THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED TIA WE WERE WELL-AWARE OF GOP'S CONTINUING PROHIBITION OF OVERFLIGHTS BY ANY AIRCRAFT EXCEPT THOSE ENGAGED IN SCHEDULED SERVICE AND AGREED THAT THE PROHIBITION APPEARED TO BE ARBITRARY, UNNECESSARY, AND A POOR WAY TO OBTAIN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. WE ALSO INFORMED TIA THAT BECAUSE FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR THEIR OPERATION WILL BE "SCHEDULED" (I.E. WEEKLY FLIGHTS), IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FROM THE GOP THE AUTHORITY FOR TIA TO CONDUCT NON-STOP FERRY FLIGHTS IN-TRANSIT ACROSS THEIR TERRITORY.

4. THE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT TIA MAY NOT TECHNICALLY QUALIFY AS A "SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE". HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SERIES OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY "SCHEDULED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING AUTHORITY TO MAKE NON-STOP IN-TRANSIT FLIGHTS OVER PAKISTAN.

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5. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY/CONSULATE APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS AND REQUEST THAT THEY GRANT TIA AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THESE WEEKLY FLIGHTS NON-STOP OVER PAKISTAN FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR COMMENCING APRIL 21, 1978 AND CONCLUDING APRIL 30, 1979. IF NECESSARY, EMBASSY/CONSULATE MAY NOTE THAT AUTHORITY WOULD BE EXPRESSLY FOR SCHEDULED SERVICE AND WOULD NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. TIA WILL COMPLY WITH THE GOP'S EXISTING OVERFLIGHT REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO OPERATORS OF NON-SCHEDULED AIRCRAFT FOR ANY OTHER FLIGHTS NOT IN THIS SERVICE. EMBASSY/CONSULATE SHOULD NOT USE THE WORD "SUPPLEMENTAL" IN ITS REPRESENTATION. (FYI: TIA WILL DIFFERENTIATE THESE "SCHEDULED" FLIGHTS FROM ANY OTHER FLIGHTS BY INCORPORATING THE PHRASE "FLIGHT NUMBER 89600 FF" ON THEIR FLIGHT PLANS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLIGHT NEXT WEEK WILL BE 89601FF).

6. IF PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES WISH A USG STATEMENT IN WRITING, EMBASSY REQUESTED ASCERTAIN WHAT LETTER SHOULD SAY AND REPORT TO DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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